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### State music teachers gather for convention, concerts

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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June 2, 2000

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### **STATE MUSIC TEACHERS GATHER FOR CONVENTION, CONCERTS**

#### **MISSOULA-**

Accomplished pianists Philip Aaberg and Jean Barr will headline concerts at The University of Montana in mid-June.

The two concerts are highlights of the annual Montana State Music Teachers Convention, which will be hosted by UM's Department of Music June 12-15. They will begin at 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 12, and Tuesday, June 13, in the Music Recital Hall. Tickets, available at the door, are \$7 for adults and \$3 for students 18 and under.

Monday's concert will feature Barr, professor at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. Joining her will be UM music faculty members Anne Basinski, soprano; Stephen Kalm, baritone; Margaret Baldrige, violin; Maxine Ramey-Anderson, clarinet; and Jody Graves, piano; Montana State University member David Cody, tenor; and UM graduate Dawn Douglass, soprano.

Barr, who teaches piano accompanying and chamber music, was the first keyboard artist in the United States to be awarded a doctoral degree in accompanying, which she earned at the University of Southern California. Barr has performed throughout the United States, Europe and Asia, often in collaboration with such distinguished artists as Gerald Fischbach, Thomas Hampson, Mstislav Rostropovich, Ivan Straus and Pierre Fournier. Considered a pioneer in her field, Barr is in demand around the world as a guest lecturer and master teacher.

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Tuesday's concert will feature Windham Hill recording artist and Montana native Philip Aaberg. Joining him will be two UM faculty ensembles -- the Montana Piano Trio and the Sapphire Trio -- and an MSU duo.

A world-class composer and pianist, Aaberg is known for his diverse musical style, which embraces both solo acoustic piano and ensemble pieces that span acoustic and electronic palettes. His formidable keyboarding technique has earned the devotion of fans from every musical realm, and he has performed with such diverse acts as the Boston Pops Orchestra, Elvin Bishop, Peter Gabriel, Rudolf Serkin and Darol Anger. Aaberg's performance on PBS's "All-American Jazz" program was nominated for an Emmy.

As a special treat, Aaberg will premiere a new work, "Ringing Night," at the UM concert. The piece was commissioned for the Montana State Music Teachers Convention.

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